

United Nations Human Settlements Programme

Introduction

The Governing Council of UN-HABITAT did not meet again in the latter part of 2013. However, the outcomes of the 24th meeting of the Governing Council of UN-HABITAT, which took place in April 2013, were discussed at the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) in July 2013.¹ The General Assembly also discussed topics concerning the work of UN-HABITAT during 68th Special Session in December 2013.² Currently, UN-HABITAT is focusing on the preparation for the 7th World Urban Forum, taking place in April 2014, and is actively involved in development projects in Syria and the Philippines where the aim is achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).³

Recent Activities

The governing council of UN-HABITAT meets every two years and the 25th meeting is scheduled to take place 20-24 April 2015 in Nairobi, Kenya.⁴ However, the regular meeting of the Committee for Permanent Representatives to UN-HABITAT took place twice in September and December 2013.⁵ The main topics of these meetings were: effective advocacy; monitoring and partnerships for sustainable urbanization; participatory planning, management and governance; promoting pro-poor land and housing; environmentally sound basic urban infrastructure and services; strengthened human settlements finance systems; excellence in management.⁶

In July 2013, ECOSOC adopted Resolution 22 on Human Settlements.⁷ ECOSOC takes note of the UN-HABITAT resolutions 24/1 concerned with the World Cities Day, 24/10 on urbanization and sustainable urban development in the post-2015 development agenda, and 24/15 about the strategic plan for 2014-2019 and the work program and budget of UN-HABITAT for the biennium 2014-2015.^{8,9}

In addition to the ECOSOC meeting, the General Assembly considered the work of UN-HABITAT during its 68th Special Session in December 2013.¹⁰ The agenda of the meeting included three topics associated UN-HABITAT, point 19(b), 20, and 115.¹¹ The General Assembly adopted two resolutions recommended by its second committee without vote, A/68/238/Add.2, *Follow-up to and implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States*.¹² A/68/239, *Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)* was also adopted.¹³ According to

¹ UN-HABITAT, *Events Calendar* [Website], 2014.; UN-HABITAT, *Decision and resolutions adopted by the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme at its twenty-fourth session*, 2013, p. 1-2.

² UN General Assembly, *General Assembly Adopts \$5.53 Billion Budget to Fund Worldwide Operations as Main Segment of Sixty-eighth Session Concludes* [Website], 2013.

³ UN-HABITAT, *UN-HABITAT Home* [Website], 2014.

⁴ UN General Assembly, *Adoption of the draft biennial calendar of conferences and meetings for 2014 and 2015 (A/AC.172/2013/LC.2 2013)*, 2013, p. 57.

⁵ UN-HABITAT, *The Secretariat of the Governing Council* [Website], 2014.

⁶ UN-HABITAT, *Focus Areas* [Website], 2014.

⁷ UN ECOSOC, *Human Settlements (E/RES/2013/22 2013)*, 2013, p. 1.

⁸ *Ibid.*

⁹ UN-HABITAT, *Decision and resolutions adopted by the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme at its twenty-fourth session*, 2013, p. 1-2.

¹⁰ UN General Assembly, *Meetings – 68th session*, [Website], 2014.

¹¹ UN General Assembly, *Agenda of the sixty-eighth session of the General Assembly (A/RES/68/251)*, 2013.

¹² UN General Assembly, *Sustainable development: follow-up to and implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (A/RES/238.Add.2 2013)*, 2013.

¹³ UN General Assembly, *Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) (A/RES/239 2013)*, 2013; UN General Assembly, *General Assembly Adopts \$5.53 Billion Budget to Fund Worldwide Operations as Main Segment of Sixty-eighth Session Concludes* [Website], 2013.

agenda point 115, the General Assembly elects the Executive Director of UN-HABITAT and during the 68th Special Session Dr. Joan Clos was reelected UN-HABITAT's Executive Director.¹⁴

Recent Policy Outcomes

As the World Urban Forum 7 will take place in April 2014 in Medellin, Colombia, UN-HABITAT is engaged in preparation for this upcoming event. The main topic of the six different dialogues will be "Urban Equity in Development - Cities for life."¹⁵ According to Dr. Joan Clos, the Forum will be "the key platform for discussing the role of sustainable urbanization within the framework of the Post-2015 development goals and the Third Conference of Housing and Sustainable Urban Development, in 2016"¹⁶. UN-HABITAT invited over 10,000 people to the gathering and awaits the discussion on urbanization.¹⁷

Policy Implementation

Currently the work of UN-HABITAT focuses on the situation on the Philippines.¹⁸ Since 2003 UN-HABITAT has been actively involved in achieving the MDGs on the Philippines.¹⁹ As the Typhoon Haiyan hit the islands in November 2013, UN-HABITAT intensified its support in the nation.²⁰ The main work of UN-HABITAT concentrates on regional assistance where they raise funds and seek donations to rebuild and provide shelter.²¹ Following its main mission, UN-HABITAT is involved in four projects in the Philippines.²² The main goals of these projects are: urban development, providing shelter as well as basic services, and "neighborhood based integrated coordination."²³ Additionally, UN-HABITAT is concerned with the ongoing conflict in Syria which has caused 7 million people to leave their homes.²⁴

Furthermore, UN-HABITAT published five documents in 2013 which focus on UN-HABITAT's key topic: human settlements.²⁵ The *Global Report on Human Settlements 2013* points out the importance of infrastructure,²⁶ *Join the World Urban Campaign* addresses rapid urbanization and what can be improved in development projects,²⁷ *Streets as Public Spaces and Drivers of Urban Prosperity* talks about changing land use.²⁸ *Shelter Projects 2011-2012* summarizes realized shelter projects.²⁹ The final paper, *53 UN-Habitat Model Projects 2013/2014-Time to Think Urban* is a catalogue of projects which are launched to support the urbanization process of cities.³⁰

Conclusion

UN-HABITAT's main mission is to "promote socially and environmentally sustainable towns and cities with the goal of providing adequate shelter for all."³¹ The last month of 2013 showed us how important UN-HABITAT is especially during crisis situations, like that occurring in the Philippines. In the upcoming year, UN-HABITAT will play a key role when it comes to the post-2015 development agenda and will further strive for sustainable urbanization.

¹⁴ UN General Assembly, *Agenda of the sixty-eighth session of the General Assembly (A/RES/68/251)*, 2013, p. 10; UN-HABITAT, *About us – Executive Director* [Website], 2014.

¹⁵ UN-HABITAT, *World Urban Forum 7 – Dialogues and Themes* [Website], 2014.

¹⁶ UN-HABITAT, *Colombia warms up for World Urban Forum 7* [Website], 2014.

¹⁷ Ibid.

¹⁸ UN-HABITAT, *UN-HABITAT Home* [Website], 2014.

¹⁹ UN-HABITAT, *UN-HABITAT Philippines History* [Website], 2014.

²⁰ UN-HABITAT, *UN-HABITAT Philippines* [Website], 2014.

²¹ UN-HABITAT, *UN-HABITAT extends assistance to Philippine's typhoon victims* [Website], 2014.

²² UN-HABITAT, *UN-HABITAT in Syria – Urban Syria* [Website], 2014.

²³ UN-HABITAT, *UN-HABITAT in Syria* [Website], 2014.

²⁴ Ibid.

²⁵ UN-HABITAT, *UN-HABITAT Home* [Website], 2014.

²⁶ UN-HABITAT, *Global Report on Human Settlements 2013* [Website], 2014.

²⁷ UN-HABITAT, *Join the world urban campaign* [Website], 2014.

²⁸ UN-HABITAT, *Streets as Public Spaces and Drivers of Urban Prosperity* [Website], 2014.

²⁹ UN-HABITAT, *Shelter Projects 2011-2012* [Website], 2014.

³⁰ UN-HABITAT, *53 UN-Habitat Model Projects 2013/2014-Time to Think Urban* [Website], 2014.

³¹ UN-HABITAT, *About us – Our Mission* [Website], 2014.

The United Nations Human Settlements Programme at NMUN•NY 2014

Format: UN-HABITAT is a resolution writing committee.

Voting: Each Member State present may vote once on procedural and substantive matters. Matters are decided by a majority vote.

Membership: UN-HABITAT membership is comprised of 51 Member States. Current membership is as follows:

Albania	Algeria	Antigua and Barbuda	Argentina
Bahrain	Bangladesh	Benin	Brazil
Burkina Faso	Central African Republic	Chile	China
Colombia	Congo	El Salvador	Finland
France	Gabon	Germany	Grenada
Haiti	India	Indonesia	Iran
Israel	Italy	Japan	Jordan
Lesotho	Madagascar	Mali	Mexico
Morocco	Mozambique	Nigeria	Norway
Pakistan	Republic of Korea	Russian Federation	Saudi Arabia
Somalia	South Africa	Spain	Sri Lanka
Sweden	Thailand	Turkey	Uganda
United Republic of Tanzania	United States of America	Venezuela	

Annotated Bibliography

United Nations Economic and Social Council. (2013, October 28). *Human Settlements (E/RES/2013/22 2013)* [Resolution]. Retrieved 7 January 2014 from: http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=E/RES/2013/22.

On the basis of the adopted resolutions from the 24th meeting of the Governing Council of UN-HABITAT, the Economic and Social Council adopted this resolution. This document shows delegates which topics were most important for the Economic and Social Council and may provide a deeper look on how information is passed on.

United Nations General Assembly. (2013, December 27). *General Assembly Adopts \$5.53 Billion Budget to Fund Worldwide Operations as Main Segment of Sixty-eighth Session Concludes*. [Web Site]. Retrieved 7 January 2014 from: <http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2013/ga1479.doc.htm>.

This article summarizes some of the achievements of the 68th meeting of the United Nations General Assembly. Delegates can find information on the respective topics concerning UN-HABITAT. Additionally, links are provided for the resolutions which were adopted.

United Nations Human Settlements Programme. (2014). *The Secretariat of the Governing Council* [Web Site]. Retrieved 7 January 2014 from: <http://www.unhabitat.org/list.asp?typeid=47&catid=417>.

This Web Site gives an overview on the main activities and meeting of UN-HABITAT. Delegates can see when a meeting of Committee for Permanent Representatives to UN-HABITAT takes place and afterwards a link is provided where the main outcomes are presented. Additionally, the meetings of the Governing Council and information on any events are provided.

United Nations Human Settlements Programme. (2014). *UN-HABITAT in Syria* [Web Site]. Retrieved 7 January 2014 from: <http://www.unhabitat.org/content.asp?cid=12299&catid=822&typeid=24&subMenuId=0>.

The Web Site gives an overview on the actions taken in the Syrian conflict by UN-HABITAT. It summarizes the main goals and the main achievements. Delegates can use this Web Site to see what UN-HABITAT is doing specifically in crisis regions.

United Nations Human Settlements Programme. (2014). *UN-HABITAT extends assistance to Philippine's typhoon victims* [Web Site]. Retrieved 7 January 2014 from: <http://www.unhabitat.org.ph/index.php/2-uncategorised/300-un-habitat-extends-assistance-to-philippine-s-typhoon-victims>.

In November 2013 the Philippines was hit by a typhoon which destroyed many houses and buildings. UN-HABITAT is involved in rebuilding much in the area. Information is also available on what they already achieved when striving for the MDGs on the Philippines. The article summarizes what UN-HABITAT is currently doing in the Philippines and what has actually happened.

Bibliography

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United Nations General Assembly. (2013, December 10). *Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) (A/RES/239 2013)*. [Resolution]. Retrieved 7 January 2014 from http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/68/439.

United Nations General Assembly. (2013, December 13). *Sustainable development: follow-up to and implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (A/RES/238.Add.2 2013)*. [Resolution]. Retrieved 7 January 2014 from: http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/68/438/Add.2.

United Nations General Assembly. (2013, December 27). *General Assembly Adopts \$5.53 Billion Budget to Fund Worldwide Operations as Main Segment of Sixty-eighth Session Concludes*. [Web Site]. Retrieved 7 January 2014 from: <http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs//2013/ga1479.doc.htm>.

United Nations General Assembly. (2013, July 17). *Adoption of the draft biennial calendar of conferences and meetings for 2014 and 2015 (A/AC.172/2013/LC.2 2013)* [Draft Resolution]. Retrieved 7 January 2014 from: <http://coc.dgacm.org/documents/AAC1722013L2/PDF/AAC1722013L2E.pdf>.

United Nations General Assembly. (2013, September 20). *Agenda of the sixty-eighth session of the General Assembly (A/RES/68/251)*. [Resolution]. Retrieved 7 January 2014 from: http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/68/251.

United Nations General Assembly. (2014). *Meetings – 68th session*. [Web Site]. Retrieved 7 January 2014 from: <http://www.un.org/en/ga/68/meetings/>.

United Nations Human Settlements Programme. (2013, April 19). *Decision and resolutions adopted by the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme at its twenty-fourth session* [Resolution]. Retrieved 7 January 2014 from: http://www.unhabitat.org/downloads/docs/12288_1_595220.pdf.

United Nations Human Settlements Programme. (2014). *53 UN-Habitat Model Projects 2013/2014-Time to Think Urban* [Web Site]. Retrieved 7 January 2014 from: <http://www.unhabitat.org/pmss/listItemDetails.aspx?publicationID=3495>.

United Nations Human Settlements Programme. (2014). *About us – Executive Director* [Web Site]. Retrieved 7 January 2014 from: <http://www.unhabitat.org/categories.asp?catid=649>.

United Nations Human Settlements Programme. (2014). *About us – Our Mission* [Web Site]. Retrieved 7 January 2014 from: <http://www.unhabitat.org/categories.asp?catid=10>.

United Nations Human Settlements Programme. (2014). *Colombia warms up for World Urban Forum 7* [Web Site]. Retrieved 7 January 2014 from: <http://www.unhabitat.org/content.asp?cid=12592&catid=767&typeid=6>.

United Nations Human Settlements Programme. (2014). *Events Calendar* [Web Site]. Retrieved 7 January 2014 from: <http://www.unhabitat.org/list.asp?typeid=11&catid=26&allcontent=1>.

United Nations Human Settlements Programme. (2014). *Focus Areas* [Web Site]. Retrieved 7 January 2014 from: <http://www.unhabitat.org/categories.asp?catid=573>.

United Nations Human Settlements Programme. (2014). *Global Report on Human Settlements 2013* [Web Site]. Retrieved 7 January 2014 from: <http://www.unhabitat.org/content.asp?catid=555&typeid=19&cid=12336>.

United Nations Human Settlements Programme. (2014). *Join the world urban campaign* [Web Site]. Retrieved 7 January 2014 from: <http://www.unhabitat.org/pmss/listItemDetails.aspx?publicationID=3497>.

United Nations Human Settlements Programme. (2014). *Shelter Projects 2011-2012* [Web Site]. Retrieved 7 January 2014 from: <http://www.unhabitat.org/pmss/listItemDetails.aspx?publicationID=3469>.

United Nations Human Settlements Programme. (2014). *Streets as Public Spaces and Drivers of Urban Prosperity* [Web Site]. Retrieved 7 January 2014 from: <http://www.unhabitat.org/pmss/listItemDetails.aspx?publicationID=3513>.

United Nations Human Settlements Programme. (2014). *The Secretariat of the Governing Council* [Web Site]. Retrieved 7 January 2014 from: <http://www.unhabitat.org/list.asp?typeid=47&catid=417>.

United Nations Human Settlements Programme. (2014). *UN-HABITAT extends assistance to Philippine's typhoon victims* [Web Site]. Retrieved 7 January 2014 from: <http://www.unhabitat.org.ph/index.php/2-uncategorised/300-unhabitat-extends-assistance-to-philippine-s-typhoon-victims>.

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United Nations Human Settlements Programme. (2014). *UN-HABITAT in Syria* [Web Site]. Retrieved 7 January 2014 from: <http://www.unhabitat.org/content.asp?cid=12299&catid=822&typeid=24&subMenuId=0>.

United Nations Human Settlements Programme. (2014). *UN-HABITAT in Syria – Urban Syria* [Web Site]. Retrieved 7 January 2014 from: <http://www.unhabitat.org/categories.asp?catid=822>.

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United Nations Human Settlements Programme. (2014). *UN-HABITAT Philippines* [Web Site]. Retrieved 7 January 2014 from: <http://www.unhabitat.org.ph/>.

United Nations Human Settlements Programme. (2014). *World Urban Forum 7 – Dialogues and Themes* [Web Site]. Retrieved 7 January 2014 from: <http://www.unhabitat.org/content.asp?typeid=19&catid=767&cid=12324>

I. UN-HABITAT and the Post-2015 Development Agenda

Introduction

The international approach to the post-2015 development agenda pays particular importance to how the realization of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) can be accelerated. The United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT) has been heavily involved in these discussions and has been working to achieve specific outcomes, which fit the greater picture of the development plan. The focus of UN-HABITAT has been to develop cities that are resilient to natural disasters, to increase and improve urban mobility, to assist in the sourcing of resources for the development of sustainable cities, and to diminish inequality in urban settings.³² These goals were outlined in the annual World Habitat Day celebrations on 7 October 2013 at which both the Executive Director of UN-HABITAT and the Secretary General of the UN gave addresses.

As stated in the background guide, there are two main documents guiding this topic, namely the Millennium Declaration and the outcome document on 2012's Rio+20 conference –“The Future We Want.”³³ The Millennium Declaration sets out the MDGs, which were envisioned by countries gathered at the 55th session of the General Assembly; these goals set out the development plans for the new millennium.³⁴ The outcome document for Rio+20 focuses on the development of what are known as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that will guide the work of the United Nations and other actors post the 2015 deadline set by the MDGs.³⁵ Other than UN-HABITAT, many United Nations organizations and non-related non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are working on the realization of the post-2015 development agenda. Because this topic is so broad, it allows for each agency to tackle the area of the development agenda that speaks to the work that it does.³⁶ UN-HABITAT, in line with its mandate, has tackled the sustainability of urban areas and our cities.

Among the challenges that UN-HABITAT faces in the work that it is doing, is the issue of funding. The governments gathered at the Montreux Symposium in October 2013 acknowledged the need for innovative ways of acquiring resources for developmental plans.³⁷ They agreed that this could be achieved through the promotion of philanthropy as well as encouraging South-South co-operation.³⁸ Delegates at this event recalled the conclusions of this year's UN General Assembly that reinforced the belief that development needs to be grounded in sustainability and place the eradication of inequality as the highest priority.³⁹

With regards to seeing these development goals realized, the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) is assisting by making structural adjustments that will be of benefit to organizations like UN-HABITAT. For example, the Commission on Sustainable Development, which was created nearly two decades ago to accelerate the achievement of the development goals, has been replaced and held its final session in September 2013.⁴⁰ The Commission was replaced by the High-level Political Forum. The Forum held its first meeting in September of 2013 and is planning its second meeting for June 2014.⁴¹ In 2016 the Forum will take the place of the Annual Ministerial Review sitting in the High segment of ECOSOC.⁴² Changes such as these are designed to streamline the efforts of the international community and will play their part in seeing through the realization of the SDGs.

³² UN-HABITAT, *UN-HABITAT Identifies Access as Key for Sustainable Urban Transport*, 2013; Economic and Social Council, *Urban Resilience Necessary as Effects of Climate Change Increase, Secretary-General Stresses at World Habitat Day Event*, 2013.

³³ UN General Assembly, *United Nations Millennium Declaration (A/RES/55/2 2000)* [Resolution], 2000; UN General Assembly, Sixty-sixth session, *The future we want (A/RES/66/288)* [Resolution], 2012.

³⁴ UN General Assembly, *United Nations Millennium Declaration (A/RES/55/2 2000)* [Resolution], 2000.

³⁵ *Ibid.*

³⁶ Post2015.org, *Post2015.org – What comes after the MDGs?*

³⁷ Post 2015 Policy & Practice, *Montreux Symposium Addresses Post-2015 Development Cooperation*, 2013.

³⁸ *Ibid.*

³⁹ *Ibid.*

⁴⁰ Economic and Social Council, *Economic and Social Council Opens 2014 Session by Outlining Structural Reforms Deemed 'Most Significant' in Over 20 years*, 2013.

⁴¹ United Nations Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform. *Home*.

⁴² Economic and Social Council, *Economic and Social Council Opens 2014 Session by Outlining Structural Reforms Deemed 'Most Significant' in Over 20 years*, 2013.

The progress of the SDGs will continue to be monitored by the publication of the Global Sustainable Development Report, which maps out the history of the MDGs, the formation of the SDGs, and the course which global development is expected to take.⁴³

Finally, recently several other bodies met focusing on topics related to the post-2015 development agenda. The Open Working Group (OWG) on Sustainable Development Goals held its 7th session in January 2014.⁴⁴ This working group focused on sustainable cities and urban mobility as well as other prominent issues like climate change and responsible manufacturing.⁴⁵ The countries and organizations gathered there acknowledged the urgent need for the development of sustainable cities and their incorporation into the SDGs.⁴⁶ The 8th session of the OWG will be held in February 2014.⁴⁷ The upcoming World Urban Forum 7 conference will discuss pressing issues in the area of human settlements, including rapid urbanization and its impact on cities and climate change.⁴⁸

Recent Developments

Urban Mobility

UN-HABITAT has recently focused on is the issue of urban mobility as the importance of accessible cities has become far more apparent. World Habitat Day 2013 was celebrated under the theme “Urban Mobility.”⁴⁹ In his address, UN-HABITAT Executive Director Joan Clos emphasized the importance of cities that are easily accessible and thus more livable.⁵⁰ This was not to advocate for merely wider roads and better infrastructure but rather for inclusive transport systems that will have people opting for shared transport as opposed to privately owned vehicles.⁵¹ He highlighted that cities have shifted from merely being hubs of industry to also being important social bases for people.⁵²

Further, UN-HABITAT as an organization is well aware of the damage that urbanization has done to the environment.⁵³ The transportation sector on its own currently contributes 13% of Green House Gases.⁵⁴ As such, in accordance with global efforts to reduce these emissions, UN-HABITAT must be environmentally conscious in its plans.⁵⁵ The UN-HABITAT report “Planning and Design for Sustainable Urban Mobility,” written in October 2013, recommends that cities become denser so as to reduce the overall effect that cities, and particularly the transportation of people within them, has on the environment.⁵⁶ This document is key to the plans and actions that UN-HABITAT will be carrying out in the years after the 2015 MDG deadline.

Resilient Cities

Another focus of UN-HABITAT that has received increased attention since October 2013 is designing resilient cities. At the World Habitat Day event, Secretary-General Ban-Ki Moon made remarks concerning the high rate of destruction of cities due to natural disasters and consequential the mortality and loss of livelihood for many.⁵⁷ The

⁴³ United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, *Global Sustainable Development Report*, 2013.

⁴⁴ United Nations Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform, *Seventh session of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals*.

⁴⁵ Ibid.

⁴⁶ *Co-Chairs Summary bullet points for OWG-7*, 2014.

⁴⁷ United Nations Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform, *Eighth session of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals*.

⁴⁸ United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, *Global Sustainable Development Report*, 2013.

⁴⁹ UN-HABITAT, *World Habitat Day Focuses on Urban Mobility, Resilient Cities*, 2013.

⁵⁰ Ibid.

⁵¹ Ibid.

⁵² Ibid.

⁵³ Ibid.

⁵⁴ Ibid.

⁵⁵ Ibid.

⁵⁶ UN-HABITAT, *Planning and Design for Sustainable Urban Mobility*, 2013.

⁵⁷ UN-HABITAT, *UN-HABITAT Identifies Access as Key for Sustainable Urban Transport*, 2013; Economic and Social Council, *Urban Resilience Necessary as Effects of Climate Change Increase, Secretary-General Stresses at World Habitat Day Event*, 2013.

Secretary-General emphasized the importance of cities that can withstand extreme weather conditions and that can recover in good time following natural disasters.⁵⁸ He acknowledged that such disasters are becoming increasingly frequent due to the effects of climate change.⁵⁹ Destruction such as that caused by Typhoon Haiyan is evidence of the urgent need for properly planned cities with good infrastructure, effective evacuation plans, and efficient mobility.

Conclusion

UN-HABITAT, in creating resilient cities and mobile populations, seeks to narrow inequality in our dwellings and decrease the number of slum dwellers and those living in conditions that do not advance their fundamental freedoms.⁶⁰ In the last few months, it has mapped out the course it is going to take and the way in which it fits the overall global picture through its participation in the OWG and in the plans its Executive Director spoke of on World Habitat day. With the World Urban Forum 7 (WUF 7) coming up in April 2014, a clearer definition of the post-2015 goals can be expected.⁶¹ This conference will highlight the aims for sustainable urbanization over the next phase of developments. The questions to be discussed over the coming months include how the international community will continue to decide how to move forward on integrating the SDGs with the post-2015 development agenda and what dominate frameworks will shape the post-2015 development agenda. UN-HABITAT clearly has priorities it wishes to see within the post-2015 development agenda, but how those should be reflected in the overall UN post-2015 development agenda as well as how broader themes of the post-2015 agenda should impact the work of UN-HABITAT must be discussed in greater detail.

⁵⁸ Ibid.

⁵⁹ Ibid.

⁶⁰ United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, *Global Sustainable Development Report*, 2013.

⁶¹ Ibid.

Annotated Bibliography

United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. (2013). *Global Sustainable Development Report*. Retrieved 15 January 2014 from:

<http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/975GSDR%20Executive%20Summary.pdf>

This report outlines the history of the MDGs as well as where the initial developmental agenda came from. It is important because it then maps out the development of the SDGs and the direction in which the dialogue is going. It also provides a useful critique on the progress thus far and gives guidance as to what goals can be reasonably attained in the near future.

United Nations Economic and Social Council. (2014, January 14). *Economic and Social Council Opens 2014 Session by Outlining Structural Reforms Deemed “Most Significant” in Over 20 years*. Retrieved 15 January 2014 from: www.un.org/News/Press/docs//2014/ecosoc6588.doc.htm

The Economic and Social Council Website in general is a useful one for understanding the greater picture of the development plan. This particular article illustrates the changes, such as streamlining that are taking place structurally on a macro- scale to accommodate the new development agenda. This source will help delegates to understand where UN-HABITAT fits into the bigger picture.

Climate Change Policy & Practice. (2013). *Transport Day 2013 Concludes with Warsaw Statement on Low Carbon Transport*. Retrieved 15 January 2014 from: <http://climate-l.iisd.org/news/transport-day-2013-concludes-with-warsaw-statement-on-low-carbon-transport/>

This article provides insight from a source that is not from the United Nations and thus provides a slightly different perspective. It highlights the importance of taking climate change into perspective while drafting future development plans. In so doing, it provides delegates with an opportunity to ensure their research takes this matter into account when drafting opinions.

UN-HABITAT. (2013). *Planning and Design for Sustainable Urban Mobility: Global Report on Human Settlements 2013*. Retrieved 15 January 2014 from:

<http://www.unhabitat.org/pmss/listItemDetails.aspx?publicationID=3503>

This is the annual report released by UN-HABITAT on its work and the direction it is taking in the future. It provides a clear outline of the work of UN-HABITAT in 2013, thus providing delegates with a timeline of events that may be useful. In addition to this, it is a good starting point for delegate research because it provides a skeleton of the work of UN-HABITAT so far, which will add context to delegate debate.

UN News Centre. (2013, December 9). *Urban Inequity Presents New Social, Development Challenges, says senior UN official*. Retrieved 15 January 2014 from:

www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=46697&Cr=urbanization&Cr1=#.UtlWw7T8LIU

This source is a summary of a recent address by the UN-HABITAT Executive Director Joan Clos. In it he summarizes what he sees as the key issues and challenges for UN-HABITAT. It is a useful source for delegates as it is clear and succinct and highlights the major challenges while shedding light on the direction the organization is taking.

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II. Gender Equality in Human Settlement Development

Introduction

In *The Habitat Agenda*, UN-HABITAT specifically committed themselves to “the goal of gender equality in human settlement development.”⁶² However, due to several factors, including higher rates of poverty and insecurity of tenure, women have been unable to fully participate in the decision making bodies concerning settlements.⁶³ On a policy level, mainstreaming gender into the discussions about city planning and rural development is important and will lead to greater participation of women.⁶⁴ UN-HABITAT has a vital role to play in this policy development and it is important that they inject their commitment to gender equality into local and regional policy creation.

The mainstreaming of gender has been on the agenda of various United Nations entities in the past year, including the Security Council who unanimously passed Resolution 2122, which calls for women to be present in all stages of conflict prevention and resolution.⁶⁵ Additionally, the General Assembly passed Resolutions 68/184 and 68/340 which both call for women to be protected from violence and to participate in their nation’s political activities.⁶⁶

Various other organizations have discussed women, their needs, and their impact on global and regional development this year, including the World Health Organization (WHO), The World Bank, and the World Food Programme (WFP).⁶⁷

The key documents which continue to guide the thinking on these topics include the *Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) (A/RES/62/198)*, *The Habitat Agenda*, and *The Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Violence Against Women*.⁶⁸ Coordination of substantive work on this topic is managed by two key entities, specifically UN-HABITAT and UN Women.

Recent Developments

On December 6, 2013 the General Assembly adopted Draft Resolution A/C2/68/L61, an update to A/RES/62/198, *Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)*.⁶⁹ The European Union praised this update document because of its emphasis on gender equality and the empowerment of women as a means for creating more sustainable cities.⁷⁰ The original resolution only briefly mentioned gender equality, as a part of a list of suggested topics, making the new emphasis a welcome change that falls more in line with UN-HABITAT’s agenda and their governing documents.⁷¹ A/C2/68/L61 calls for more women to participate in local and national authorities, in the hopes that they will promote sustainable development in urbanization and city planning.⁷² The update document also notes the key role that women play in urban poverty reduction.⁷³ The new emphasis on gender equality and women’s empowerment in United Nations Resolution documents is a direct response to the various

⁶² UN-HABITAT, *The Habitat Agenda*, Chapter III, Section D, 1996.

⁶³ Ibid.

⁶⁴ United Nations Millennium Project, *Taking Action: Achieving Gender Equality and Empowering Women*, 2011.

⁶⁵ UN Security Council, *Women, Peace, and Security (SC/RES/2122)*, 2013.

⁶⁶ UN General Assembly, *Third Committee Passes 11 Texts, Including one on Protecting Women’s Human Rights*, 2013.

⁶⁷ WFP, *Violence Against Women* [Website], 2013; WHO, *Bulletin of the World Health Organization*, 2013; World Bank, *International Women’s Day*, 2013 [Website].

⁶⁸ UN General Assembly, *Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) (A/RES/62/198)*, 2008; UN-HABITAT, *The Habitat Agenda*, 1996; UN General Assembly, *The Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Violence Against Women*, 1979.

⁶⁹ European Union, *EU Statement – United Nations 2nd Committee: Habitat 2013*.

⁷⁰ Ibid.

⁷¹ UN General Assembly, *Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) (A/RES/62/198)*, 2008.

⁷² European Union, *EU Statement – United Nations 2nd Committee: Habitat*, 2013.

⁷³ Ibid.

regional conferences held throughout 2013, which called for an emphasis on gender equality and women's empowerment in national and regional housing, property, and land rights.

The African Union declared 2010-2020 to be the African Women's Decade.⁷⁴ With this in mind, those attending the 54th Ordinary Session of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights in 2012 adopted TRES/008/10/2013, *Women's Land and Property Rights in Africa*.⁷⁵ The resolution specifically outlines how civil law should protect women's property rights and their ability to live peacefully with or without a spouse. The document pulls heavily from key UN-HABITAT documents, making each section specific to women. For example, TRES/008/10/2013 calls for African governments to create, enforce, or repeal laws to ensure that women have access to "legal protection from forced evictions [...and guaranteed access to] adequate housing."⁷⁶ The document also calls for a review of current inheritance laws to ensure that both boys and girls have access to the economic resources left by deceased family members, which helps to ensure the economic empowerment of women and girls regardless of their marital status.⁷⁷ This Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) penned resolution will be presented to various African governments and the United Nations in hopes of wider adoption.⁷⁸

The topic of the 2013 Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean was *Mainstreaming the Gender Perspective in Regional Development*, and much of what was discussed revolved around settlement development and sustainable cities.⁷⁹ At the conference the development and consolidation of the Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean was discussed and praised.⁸⁰ This Observatory is an inter-agency organization, specifically designed to seek out gender based discrimination and attempt to combat it.⁸¹ UN-HABITAT regional offices are actively working with the Observatory to ensure gender equality in national and regional housing schemes.⁸² In fact, the creation of the Observatory (and other gender equality watchdog organizations in various regions) was called for in UN-HABITAT's *2008-2013 Gender Equality Action Plan*.⁸³

Looking to the future, the Post-2015 Policy and Practice knowledge management project is working towards ideas and potential practices in developing post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including goals for sustainable cities, human settlements, and women's empowerment.⁸⁴ In March 2014 they will be holding an international conference at the United Nations Headquarters in New York City in order to discuss SDGs.⁸⁵ One of the highlighted events is The Role of Women, the Young, and Civil Society to the Post-2015 Development Agenda.⁸⁶ The purpose of this event is to have an "interactive and participatory discussions, with the objective of generating concrete contributions to the formulation of SDGs," specifically concerning underrepresented groups and their place in the development.⁸⁷ The conference will also hold an event on sustainable cities, which will have a special emphasis on gender and the role of UN-HABITAT and the World Bank in mainstreaming the gender perspective, women's empowerment, and poverty reduction.⁸⁸

⁷⁴ African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, *Women's Land and Property Rights in Africa (TRES/008/10/2012)*, 2012.

⁷⁵ Ibid.

⁷⁶ Ibid.

⁷⁷ Ibid.

⁷⁸ Ibid.

⁷⁹ Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, *Mainstreaming the Gender Perspective in Regional Development: Activities Carried out by the Secretariat of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean*, 2013.

⁸⁰ Ibid.

⁸¹ Ibid.

⁸² UN-HABITAT, *2008-2013 Gender Equality Action Plan*, 2007.

⁸³ Ibid.

⁸⁴ International Institute for Sustainable Development, *About Post-2015 Policy and Practice*, [Website], 2014.

⁸⁵ International Institute for Sustainable Development, *Upcoming Events* [Website], 2014.

⁸⁶ International Institute for Sustainable Development, *Event: The Role of Women, the Young, and Civil Society to the Post-2015 Development Agenda* [Website], 2014.

⁸⁷ Ibid.

⁸⁸ Ibid.

Conclusion

The topic is relevant in many different areas of concern for the international community; thus, its presence in resolutions from various United Nations organs – from peace and conflict resolution to sustainable cities to property and inheritance rights, women’s empowerment and gender mainstreaming are crucial to the adequate development of human settlements. Options and ideas for action can be drawn from various sources, as a result, enabling future action on this topic to be concrete.

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The resolution shows specific work being done regionally, specifically in the African Union, regarding human settlements and the ways in which women and girls are included. Women's empowerment and the right to live alone (without their parents or a spouse) are important themes in the resolution. Delegates are encouraged to understand the regional implication of UN-HABITAT documents and why regional resolutions like this one can strengthen those wider documents and make them more country or region specific.

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean. (15-18 October 2013). *Mainstreaming the Gender Perspective in Regional Development: Activities Carried out by the Secretariat of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean*. Retrieved 6 January 2014 from http://www.eclac.cl/12conferenciawmujer/noticias/paginas/0/50990/2013-582_CRM.12-5_Mainstreaming_the_gender_perspective_in_regional_development.pdf

This summary of topics, outcomes, and planned programs shows how UN-HABITAT plans and suggestions are carried out in specific regions. The praise, critic, and suggestions for various organizations whose creation was advised by UN-HABITAT show how regional groups must tweak these programs and make them more specific in order for success regionally.

United Nation, General Assembly, Sixty-second Session. (February 22, 2008). *Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) (A/RES/62/198)*. Retrieved 4 January 2014 from [http://www.unhabitat.org/downloads/docs/5627_85413_A_RES_62_198%20\(E\).pdf](http://www.unhabitat.org/downloads/docs/5627_85413_A_RES_62_198%20(E).pdf)

This is the original resolution which called for women's empowerment to be a part of UN-HABITAT's agenda and programs. While women and gender mainstreaming are only a very small part of the resolution it marks the first time that it was mentioned. Further, this document can serve as a comparable source for the update documents so delegates can see what needs to be improved and emphasized for women in UN-HABITAT plans, programs, and resolutions.

United Nations Human Settlement Programme. (2007). *2008-2013 Gender Equality Action Plan*. Retrieved 6 January 2014 from http://www.unhabitat.org/downloads/docs/7549_61946_GEAP_English.pdf

The official UN-HABITAT plan for gender equality and women's empowerment in human settlements, this document can be used to see what has been successful and what still needs work. Some of the regional conferences that took place in 2013 (or are planned for 2014) discussed the outcomes of the programs and suggestions in this document.

United Nations University. (12 June, 2012). *Female Empowerment and Extreme Poverty Reduction* [Web Site]. Retrieved 4 January 2014 from <http://unu.edu/publications/articles/female-empowerment-and-extreme-poverty-reduction.html#info>

A concise, easy to understand overview of the ways women's empowerment can help to elevate poverty. This website serves as an introduction to the topic and a case study proving that poverty can be reduced when women are economically empowered. The site also provides links to other resources concerning women's empowerment, gender equality, and human settlements.

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III. Enhancing Living Standards in Slums through Cooperation

Introduction

With the presence of large slums becoming increasingly common in many of the world's major cities, the need for cities to ensure their residents gain access to basic services becomes even more crucial.⁸⁹ Many times, extremely poor people who live in these slums are forced to compromise their long-term health or well-being to meet their short-term survival needs.⁹⁰ Given this undesirable tradeoff, efforts to enhance living standards in slums have increased in the latter part of 2013, the most notable of them being the development of the Participatory and Inclusive Land Readjustment (PILaR) program, to be implemented in selected cities all over the world.⁹¹

The management of the substantive work on this particular topic is coordinated by several different entities, which within the United Nations (UN) are predominately the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT) and the World Health Organization (WHO). In the last several months these organizations have reaffirmed their work on the issue of living standards in slums through conferences and meetings which produced a series of resolutions and reports, such as the Report of the Mission to the 2nd African Caribbean and Pacific (ACP)/European Commission (EC)/UN-HABITAT International Tripartite Conference in Kigali, Rwanda, which summarized the high-level discussions on several topics surrounding the broader issue of sustainable urban development.⁹² The focus of the conference was "Slum Upgrading and Community Empowerment," and it highlighted the importance of land-use planning and policies, increased regional partnerships, and integrating gender issues to ensure higher participation of women and marginalized groups.⁹³ The conference culminated in the adoption of the "Kigali Declaration on Sustainable Urbanization for Poverty Eradication," which reaffirmed the importance of regional cooperation and public-private partnerships, and the agreement to have economic development be the main focus for urbanization, in order to expand job creation, particularly targeting the urban youth.⁹⁴

On 24 September 2013, the General Assembly hosted the first meeting of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development. The forum, created at the Rio +20 conference, had as its inaugural theme "Building the future we want: from Rio+20 to the post-2015 development agenda."⁹⁵ The meeting brought to light how a number of challenges, including economic and urban development, can be tackled through the three dimensions of sustainable development.⁹⁶ These dimensions are: "making economic growth inclusive, making societies inclusive, and using our resources sustainably within critical global, regional and local environmental thresholds."⁹⁷ Member States emphasized the same points made in the Tripartite Conference in Rwanda: they acknowledged that gender issues and mainstreaming are crucial to human progress; and, in order to achieve Millennium Development Goal 7 (MDG 7), it is fundamental to partner with the public sector, cities, and local authorities.⁹⁸ The key documents which continue to underpin this topic include the *Habitat Agenda* (1996), the *Slum Upgrading Facility (A/56/206)*, and the *Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium* (2001).⁹⁹

⁸⁹ UN Regional Office Information Centre for Western Europe (UNRIC), *The Silent Crisis of the Urban Slums*, 2013.

⁹⁰ Ibid.

⁹¹ UN-HABITAT, *The City of Medellín and UN-Habitat pilot inclusive land readjustment*, 2013.

⁹² ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly, *Report of the Mission to the 2nd ACP/EC/UN-HABITAT International Tripartite Conference in Kigali (Rwanda)*, 2013.

⁹³ Ibid.

⁹⁴ Ibid.

⁹⁵ UN Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform, *The United Nations High-level Political Forum on sustainable development provides leadership and reviews progress on sustainable development*, 2013.

⁹⁶ United Nations General Assembly, *Summary of the first meeting of the high-level political forum on sustainable development*, 2013.

⁹⁷ Ibid.

⁹⁸ Ibid.

⁹⁹ UN-HABITAT, *The Habitat Agenda*, 1996; UN-HABITAT, *Slum Upgrading Facility (A/56/206)*, 2001; UN General Assembly, *Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium*, 2001.

Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) such as the Global Land Tool Network and Shelter-Afrique and regional actors like the African Union and African Development Bank have been trying to engage with policy makers, like national and local governments, to implement and collaborate on affordable housing and development projects.¹⁰⁰ Shelter-Afrique signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the government of Zamfara State, in Nigeria, whereby the organization will provide advisory services and aid in the financing and project design for the region.¹⁰¹ The Global Land Tool Network facilitated an Expert Group Meeting (EGM) on land indicators that took place in November 2013.¹⁰² The meeting brought together participants from a range of different backgrounds with a common goal in developing and collecting land indicators to deliver indicator recommendations for the post-2015 process.¹⁰³ On a regional level, the African Union discussed the post-15 development agenda in its 22nd summit, along with a series of other regional actors such as the African Development Bank (AfDB), which agreed to establish a Common African Position on the post-2015 development agenda, understanding that “boosting intra-African trade, industrial development and economic integration are the most viable means for African countries to achieve structural transformation.”¹⁰⁴ Engaging in partnerships with local and national actors through projects and MoUs is seen as being very advantageous to the UN. An example of this can be seen in bilateral agreements, such as the one UN-HABITAT signed with Burkina Faso.¹⁰⁵

The profile of this topic was raised in recent months as a result of the “World Habitat Day” on 7 October 2013 and the “International Day for the Eradication of Poverty” on 17 October 2013.¹⁰⁶ The theme for these days was “Improving Urban Mobility” and “Working together towards a world without discrimination: Building on the experience and knowledge of people in extreme poverty,” respectively.¹⁰⁷ The theme for 2013’s Africa Industrialization Day also relates to the topic at hand as it focused on job creation and entrepreneurship development, which create economic empowerment, an issue crucial to enhancing living standards of slums.¹⁰⁸

Recent Developments

National and Local Developments

As previously mentioned, many recent developments have happened solely at national and local levels. At the national level, Nigeria’s first National Housing Slum Summit took place in November 2013.¹⁰⁹ The summit urged the government, at the federal and state levels, to implement a national program of action to reduce the housing deficit in the country.¹¹⁰ The summit’s decision outcome was to mainstream human rights into public policies, program designs, and decision-making, focusing more on a results-based approach.¹¹¹ In addition, as aforementioned, in November UN-HABITAT signed a three-year Country Program Agreement with Burkina Faso to support their urbanization and housing management efforts.¹¹² Burkina Faso is considered one of the poorest and least urbanized countries in the world, and despite several government efforts to contain the rapid ratios of urbanization, many of the neighborhoods and municipalities do not have the power and capacity to fund or implement a comprehensive strategic urban development plan.¹¹³ The agreement with the UN should increase activities and improvements for the Cities Alliance Country Programme and enhance the visibility for other UN-HABITAT projects such as the Participatory Slum Upgrading Program (PSUP).

¹⁰⁰ UN-HABITAT, *Partners* [Website].

¹⁰¹ Shelter-Afrique, *Shelter Afrique Signs MoU with Zamfara State Government*, 2014.

¹⁰² Global Land Tool Network, *Global Land Indicator Initiative*, 2013.

¹⁰³ *Ibid.*

¹⁰⁴ African Union, *22nd Ordinary Session of the African Union Assembly concludes: A summary of key decisions*, 2014.

¹⁰⁵ UN-HABITAT, *UN-HABITAT and Burkina Faso sign Urban Country Program Agreement* [Website], 2013.

¹⁰⁶ UN-HABITAT, *7 October: World Habitat Day 2013* [Website], 2013.

¹⁰⁷ UN-HABITAT, *Secretary-General’s Message on World Habitat Day*, 2013.

¹⁰⁸ UN *Africa Industrialization Day - November 20, 2013* [Website], 2013.

¹⁰⁹ The Guardian Nigeria, *National Strategy on Mass Housing Delivery: Slum Upgrading Underway* [Website], 2013.

¹¹⁰ *Ibid.*

¹¹¹ *Ibid.*

¹¹² UN-HABITAT, *UN-HABITAT and Burkina Faso sign Urban Country Program Agreement* [Website], 2013.

¹¹³ *Ibid.*

Increased Engagement and Slum Upgrading

The International Tripartite Conference also presented updates on the Participatory Slum Upgrading Program (PSUP), which is currently being implemented in 34 ACP countries, offered an opportunity for partners, funding agencies, and potential sponsors to invest in housing programs in Rwanda.¹¹⁴ It was concluded that everyone (parliamentarians, citizens, policy makers, and advisors) should make sure their government engages with the PSUP and fulfill their agreement to monitor the project implementation.¹¹⁵ They also agreed the PSUP had been effective in consolidating the commitment to improving living standards in slums and to pursue slum prevention policies.¹¹⁶ “It should therefore be expanded further to interested countries and into a fourth phase dedicated to scaling up implementation to the city level.”¹¹⁷

Beginning on 28 August 2013 the Global Land Tool Network and the PSUP held a three-day workshop in Nairobi, Kenya, which launched a new tool called the Participatory and Inclusive Land Readjustment (PILaR).¹¹⁸ This tool will provide new opportunities for governance improvement and slum upgrading.¹¹⁹ This new UN-HABITAT initiative promotes the supply of repaired urban land through a consultative process.¹²⁰ The aim is to generate sustainable densification of urban areas and to redevelop dilapidated regions and neighborhoods.¹²¹ This service will allow national and local authorities to better tackle urban sprawl, slums, and other urbanization challenges through an inclusive and participatory rights-based approach.¹²² This is done through engaging community and local stakeholders by holding consultations and allowing them to have a say in the policies and urban development of their city, town or village.¹²³

Conclusion

This topic cuts across multiple issues of relevance to the international community and larger key themes such as health and sustainable development. This is illustrated by the fact that it entails a series of development programs, which include improving education, public health, economic empowerment, and other basic services such as sanitation and prevention from natural disasters.¹²⁴

Combining community-driven practices at a neighborhood level and linking them to community organizations at the city level has resulted in a capacity to promote changes within government systems that address fundamentally challenging structural issues.¹²⁵ These issues could include allocation of tenure (land) and infrastructure to deprived urban organizations, changes in public policies and standards, and changes in the ways that government agencies work with poor and homeless groups.¹²⁶ Many argue this is the single most important feature of the work of these urban poor organizations with regard to achieving large-scale results.¹²⁷ Discussions and options for action can be drawn from several sources, and there is plenty of room for cooperation between different regional, local and international actors, which would enable future recommendations on this topic to be tangible. The key challenges and limitations are to develop policies that are all-encompassing and can reach the most vulnerable groups residing in the slums which still struggle to gain access to programmes being implemented.

¹¹⁴ Rwanda Ministry of Infrastructure, Rwanda hosting the 2nd International Tripartite Conference (ACP/EC/UN-HABITAT) on Sustainable Urbanisation for Poverty Eradication [Website], 2013.

¹¹⁵ ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly, *Report of the Mission to the 2nd ACP/EC/UN-HABITAT International Tripartite Conference in Kigali (Rwanda)*, 2013.

¹¹⁶ Ibid.

¹¹⁷ Ibid.

¹¹⁸ Global Land Tool Network, *GLTN, PSUP to hold a workshop on Land Readjustment* [Website], 2013.

¹¹⁹ Ibid.

¹²⁰ Ibid.

¹²¹ Ibid.

¹²² Global Land Tool Network, *Participatory and Inclusive Land Re-adjustment (Eng - 2013)* [Report], 2013.

¹²³ Ibid.

¹²⁴ United Nations Economic and Social Council, *Human Settlements*, 2011.

¹²⁵ UN Millennium Project, *A Home in the City - Improving the Lives of Slum Dwellers* [Report], 2005.

¹²⁶ Ibid.

¹²⁷ Ibid.

Annotated Bibliography

Global Land Tool Network. (2013). Participatory and Inclusive Land Re-adjustment (Eng - 2013) [Report]. Retrieved 14 January 2014 from: <http://gltm.net/index.php/resources/publications/publications-list/finish/3-gltm-documents/5-participatory-and-inclusive-land-re-adjustment-eng-2013>

The following is a recent report introducing the new PILaR (Participatory and Inclusive Land Readjustment) initiative launched by UN-HABITAT. PILaR is a new approach for land readjustment, where its new methodology aims to achieve a more inclusive and participatory engagement process in which pro-poor and gender responsive outcomes are to be realized. Overall, this document serves as a good base for delegates to expand their research, while also demonstrating new approaches on enhancing living standards in slums.

The Guardian Nigeria. (2013, November 6). *National Strategy on Mass Housing Delivery: Slum Upgrading Underway* [Website]. Retrieved 14 January 2014 from: <http://nguardiannews.com/index.php/property/property/137474-national-strategy-on-mass-housing-delivery-slum-upgrading-underway>

The following is a news article on Nigeria's first National Housing Summit. Although it may seem quite country-specific, the article also provides a well-rounded view on housing issues that are applicable to most countries that suffer from deficits in safe and adequate housing for their citizens. It lists all the main international treaties, as well as regional initiatives, plans of action, and relevant declarations related to this topic.

United Nations General Assembly. (2013). *Summary of the first meeting of the high-level political forum on sustainable development (68/588)* [Summary report]. Retrieved 31 January, 2014 from: http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/68/588&Lang=E

This summary lays out all of the crucial elements of the inaugural meeting. The main thing emphasized in the summary is the three leaders' dialogues, entitled "High-level political forum: from vision to action," "Global partnerships for development to create jobs and improve sustainable lifestyles," and "Mapping the way forward for eradicating poverty and achieving sustainable development." This source provides a good update for delegates on what the UN has been doing regarding the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the post-2015 agenda.

UN Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform. (2013). *The United Nations High-level Political Forum on sustainable development provides leadership and reviews progress on sustainable development*. Retrieved 31 January 2014 from: <http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/index.php?menu=1556>

This is the portal for the Division for Sustainable Development (DSD), a small division within the Department of Economic and Social Affairs. It provides delegates with all the recent updates regarding sustainable development, including summaries of high-level meetings and background documents on the Millennium Development Goals and the post-2015 development agenda. While its main focus is on sustainable development, delegates can still obtain a lot of recent information on the topic of urban development.

UN Millennium Project. (2005). *A Home in the City - Improving the Lives of Slum Dwellers* [Report]. Retrieved 16 January 2014 from: <http://www.unmillenniumproject.org/documents/Slumdwellers-complete.pdf>

This report lays out a road map for progress in slums all over the world. Using successful examples from around the world, it shows ways to provide adequate shelter, improved public services, and core urban infrastructure. It provides an excellent basis for research and reference when providing recommendations in committee.

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